

“Responding to God’s Word” Part 1: Psalm 119

I. Read faithfully.

II. Read prayerfully.

“Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes.” Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.” Psalm 119:18

* God’s Word is truth. Only the Holy Spirit can impart truth. John 17:17

III. Read systematically.

The Old Testament

Genesis

This book is the book of beginnings. In chapters 1-11, God gives us the historical account of creation. In these chapters we find the beginning of man, marriage, and the family. We also discover the truth about sin and its dreadful consequences.

In chapters 12-50 we find the historical record of the beginning of the Jews, the nation of Israel. These chapters relate the story of four men: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

This book will help you see God has a special purpose for creation, for Israel and for you.

Exodus – Deuteronomy

These four books describe God’s special relationship with Israel through the covenant of the law. These books will help you see that God has a special relationship with you through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Joshua – Esther

These twelve books give the historical record of the Hebrew nation from the time they entered Israel until 400 years before Christ came to earth. These books demonstrate that God has a plan for your life, that He will direct you, and that He will lovingly correct you when you do not walk in His ways.

Job – The Song of Solomon

These are books of Hebrew poetry. The writers express their love for God, their faith in God and their prayers to God. Much of this part of the Bible was written by King David and his son, King Solomon.

These books will help you to love God more and to see how He is working in your life.

Isaiah – Malachi

These seventeen books record the preaching of God's Hebrew prophets. They preached primarily to the nation Israel. These books will help you understand the holiness of God and how important it is for you to obey Him.

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4

The New Testament

Matthew – John

These books give the historical record of Jesus' birth, His life on earth, His teaching, His death, His resurrection and His ascension back into heaven. These books will help you know, trust, and love Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Acts

This book gives a historical record of the origin of the church. It will teach you the importance of the church, and it will help you understand God's plan for the church to tell the entire world about Jesus Christ. It will also help you know how you can tell your friends about Jesus Christ.

Romans – Revelation

These twenty-two books are letters written by the apostles or those closely associated with the apostles. These letters will primarily answer two important questions:

1. Who is Jesus Christ?
2. How can I successfully live the Christian life?

IV. Read Carefully.

* Use a good readable translation of God's Word.

* Speed reading is out!

* Ask three questions:

1. What does the text say?
2. What does the text mean?
3. How can this text make a difference in my life today?

V. Read Personally.

For example:

Is there a promise for me to claim?

Is there a lesson for me to learn?

Is there a blessing for me to enjoy?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there a sin for me to avoid?

Is there an example for me to follow?